

# Vote to Protect Medicaid

## *"America's Safety-net"*

March 16, 2004

Name **(TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE House Budget Cmte)**

company

address

csz

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

America's health and long term care providers and caregivers are writing to express our strong opposition to reconciliation instructions in the FY '05 House budget resolution that set the stage for cuts to vital care services provided through Medicaid, the Federal/State "safety-net" program for our nation's poor, elderly and disabled citizens.

The FY '05 House budget resolution you are now finalizing, for full house consideration, directs the House Energy and Commerce Committee to report changes in laws within its jurisdiction totaling nearly \$2.2 billion dollars. The Energy and Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over a wide variety of programs, but its largest programs are Medicare and Medicaid. The committee has already indicated that it would not make any cuts to Medicare. When asked to identify programs it would cut, the Committee zeroed in on Medicaid as the prime target.

Cuts to Medicaid and/or SCHIP at the level the House Budget Committee is proposing would be devastating, impacting millions of Americans young and old. As states continue to struggle financially, including the upcoming loss of \$10 billion in state fiscal relief on June 30<sup>th</sup>, any further reduction in federal funding will force them to cut services and tighten eligibility requirements further adding to the ranks of the uninsured.

Now is not the time to cut federal funding to Medicaid. The impact is clear; loss of federal dollars at levels the Budget Committee is proposing will jeopardize access to quality health and long term care services for our nation's most needy citizens.

As providers of this care, we call upon you to oppose any reconciliation instructions in the FY '05 House budget resolution that would result in cuts to Medicaid and the vital "safety-net" services it provides.

Sincerely,

American Health Care Association  
ACT UP Philadelphia  
ActionAIDS  
AIDs Action Baltimore, Inc.  
American Academy of Audiology  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Dental Association  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Medical Directors Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
AMERIGROUP  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Beverly Enterprises  
Center for Disability and Health  
Family Voices  
Greater New York Hospital Association  
Healthcare Association of New York State  
HIV Medicine Association  
Housing Works, Inc.  
Lutheran Health Services in America  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care  
National Association of Urban Based HMO's  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
Premier, Inc.  
Service Employees International Union  
The Mount Sinai Medical Center  
Visiting Nurse Associations of America